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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor(s): NOLAN, Paul S., et al.  
Title: METHOD FOR CONTROLLING ELEMENTAL MERCURY EMISSIONS  
Serial No.: 09/730,100  
Filed: 5 December 2000  
Examiner:  
Date: 3 September 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Dear Sir:

**PROTEST (37 C.F.R. § 1.291(a))**

This Protest is filed in duplicate. Douglas Caldwell et al. are the applicants of co-pending application Serial No. 09/674,032, filed 3 May 1999 for an invention entitled "Mercury Removal From Flue Gas". A Notice of Allowance was issued on this application on 7 June 2002 and the issue fee was paid 29 July 2002. A copy of the application published as WO 99/58228, November 19, 1999, is enclosed for your information.

The application discloses and claims the process for oxidizing gaseous pollutants in a flue gas stream composed of flue gases, water vapor and one or more gaseous pollutants selected from the group consisting of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S, and mercury vapor, said oxidized form of the pollutants being more readily removable from the flue gas stream by water absorption than the non-oxidized form thereof, comprising:

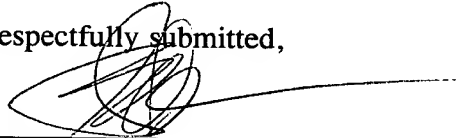
- (a) injecting sufficient chlorine in a gaseous form, a liquid form, or as a chlorine water solution, into the flue gas stream while the flue gas stream is at a temperature greater than 100°C to thereby react the chlorine with the pollutants to form an oxidized flue gas stream comprising flue gases, water vapor and oxidized gaseous pollutants;
- (b) scrubbing the oxidized flue gas stream with water, or water solution of pH less than or equal to 7; and
- (c) adding sufficient alkali metal iodide salt to the water or water

solution to precipitate the mercury from the water or water solution of pH less than or equal to 7.

Douglas Caldwell et al. have become aware of the above-identified pending patent application Serial No. 09/730,100 and wish to bring to the attention of the Examiner in charge of that application the existence of their allowed co-pending application Serial No. 09/674,032.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
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